

From: Marty McCafferty
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/3/02 12:11pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am very disappointed with the settlement. It seems to just bandage the problems with Microsoft's monopoly powers. Microsoft can easily use the delays in court to damage competitors.

Microsoft's illegal advantages have striped the computer industry of real innovation. A simple look at the computer related technology growth in the 80's compared to the 90's to present Microsoft era shows we are stagnate. Microsoft has choked off innovation so only the monetary strong can attempt to compete. This severely limits innovation.

For instance, In the 80's a \$300 Commodore 64 could play music and simple voice recognition and used the latest technology and most people could afford it. An Amiga computer was about \$600 could 32-bit multi tasking operating system, play digital music, speech synthesis, video capture and has hundred of affordable graphic and sound programs and was capable of hi speed modem access. The PC controlled by Microsoft has just recently been able to offer these abilities mostly because of the cost to do business with Microsoft and the ability of Microsoft to starve a small innovator out of the market using there illegal monopolistic power.

The only way to really help the consumer is to break Microsoft's up into competing Microsoft companies. The vacuum left behind would be filled with lots of innovative competitors keeping prices down and new ideas and technologies affordable. We would see the computer growth of the 80's of a scale of todays PC market.

Microsoft's biggest market strength is they can "include" products in there OS that a person would not purchase but may keep someone from purchasing a competitors product. Netscape is one big example, Explorer was an inferior product and few would download it, so Microsoft included it in the OS. Now a user could use the inferior product because it was included and they may be less likely to download the competitive product. Microsoft's recent Media Play 8 is following the same game plan. There are better products out there but users are less likely to download them because they have a "similar" product included with the OS.

Why invest in competing with Microsoft with their ability to force new computers to have there competing products "integrated"?

The computer industry could really used more competition in the OS and application fields to bring down the cost of good products.

Regards,

Marty

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Marty McCafferty

Network Administrator

Nissei Sangyo America, Ltd.

Phone: (847) 273-4327 Fax: (847) 273-4127

E-mail: marty.mccafferty@nissei.com

<mailto:marty.mccafferty@nissei.com>